Eureka Union School District Office, 5455 Eureka Road, Granite Bay

- 1. Call to Order 7:01 p.m.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Introduction of MAC Members

- A. MAC members present were Virgil Anderson (Chair), Eric Sanchez (Vice-Chair), Eric J. Teed-Bose, David Gravlin, Tom Habashi, Walt Pekarsky, and John Thacker (Secretary).
- B. Also present were Supervisor Kirk Uhler, and District Representative Brian Jagger.

4. Approval of November 4, 2009, MAC Agenda

A motion was made (and seconded) to approve the November 4, 2009 Agenda. The motion passed (5-0).

5. Approval of Minutes: September 2, 2009

A motion was made (and seconded) to approve the September 2, 2009 Minutes. The motion passed (5-0).

6. Public Safety Reports

None.

7. Public Comment

A long-time resident spoke regarding an invitation to an open house hosted by the Placer Land Trust, to be held November 14, 2009, from 1-3p.m, at Otow Orchard, 6232 Eureka Road. She extended the invitation to MAC members and all Granite Bay residents.

Another long-time resident spoke concerning e-mails she has received which express a desire for additional time to respond to the survey distributed at the recent Community Plan Update (hereinafter "Update") workshop. She believes a 60 or 90 day period within which to complete the survey would be more appropriate given the serious nature of this matter. She also stated that in her opinion many of the questions are confusing and/or misleading, particularly regarding the 300' setback along Douglas Blvd.

Another long-time resident noted that she has received feedback suggesting that there was inadequate notice given prior to the Update workshop. She also requested additional time within which to respond to the survey. She noted that the more people that fill out the questionnaire, the more credibility it has. She also lauded County staff for the overall quality of the workshop. This resident suggested with regard to zoning change requests that they be evaluated for their cumulative impact, as well as on their individual merits. Finally, she noted that the group Residents Defending Granite Bay has suggested criteria that should be employed relative to the Update. These criteria can be seen at rdgb.org.

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Another long-time resident opined that the Update process seems unnecessarily long, agreed that the survey is vaguely worded, and expressed concern about the expense of the entire process.

Another long-time resident requested additional time to complete the survey since many issues addressed were unfamiliar to him and thus, he believes, are likely unfamiliar to others, thus warranting additional time for study.

Another resident spoke regarding the Church project at Auburn-Folsom and Cavitt Stallman Roads. He is concerned about the damage to the environment he believes will attend the project, including that arising from the operation of a proposed school. Chairman Anderson responded that the school proposal has been dropped from the current development plan. Chairman Anderson also noted that this project did not appear on the Update survey because the project constitutes a currently allowable use.

A resident of Itchy Acres observed that the nine additional units referenced in the survey regarding proposed land use changes in that neighborhood actually equates to nine additional large units, plus the nine allowable "Grandma" units that would go with them. He contended that a large majority of Itchy Acres residents are against the proposed land use changes.

A resident of Lake Forest Drive inquired whether the results of the Update survey will be compiled and publicly disseminated. She also asked that the response time for the survey be extended since she believes the questions are complicated.

Another resident commended planning staff on the quality of the workshop. However, she expressed confusion regarding the update process and its time line. She would also like clarification regarding the method for implementing changes, particularly as that relates to the question of updated criteria.

A long-time resident urged caution regarding representations concerning what people want in Itchy Acres. Though he does not live there himself, he stated that he knows of at least one person whose views have been misrepresented. On another topic, this resident stated that he does not like the stop sign in front of this (Eureka School) building. He believes there are too many stop signs generally.

Another long-time resident expressed concern about bicycle safety, particularly on Cavitt Stallman Road. He liked the Update workshop also.

8. Supervisor Uhler's Report

Supervisor Uhler first followed up on Senator Cox's remarks (see below). Supervisor Uhler noted in regard to splitting the state, perhaps it should be divided east-from-west, not north-from-south, since this would recognize more

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accurately the state's true cultural dividing line. Supervisor Uhler next remarked that the structural budget deficit the state faces is the single biggest concern of local government. That is because the single biggest unknown is what burdens the state is going to foist upon local governments in order to balance its budget.

Supervisor Uhler's report notes that the South Placer Regional Transportation Authority Board met two weeks ago and revised its fee schedule, such that Granite Bay's fee is reduced by 35%. Regarding the Dick Cook Road bridge, it was scheduled for completion Nov. 2, but due to recent rain this date was pushed back to Nov. 13. Finally, at yesterday's Board of Supervisors meeting the Board voted to proceed with its conservation plan.

A long-time resident asked Supervisor Uhler to call the Planning Department and request an extension of time to return the Community Plan Update survey. Another long-time resident asked that people be permitted to turn in completed surveys at the library. Supervisor Uhler expressed approval of these ideas, and agreed to try to have them implemented, having no authority to do so by himself.

Supervisor Uhler responded to concerns that the Update survey will function as a final referendum on the numerous responses to requests for input by the county, by emphasizing that there will be many more opportunities, over many more months, for residents to have their voices heard on these matters. Further, the Planning Department fully intends to document and disseminate responses to the survey. Responding to concern that not enough people participate, or even know of the Update process, Supervisor Uhler observed that because of the committee process that was utilized in 1989, fewer than two dozen people participated at all. He thinks the current process is a success in terms of the number of people providing input. To this, a long-time resident opined that in fact the people who want to express themselves on this matter have done so. Another long-time resident appeared to suggest that Planning develop a FAQ list.

9. MAC Committee Reports

No Committee Reports.

10. Informational Non-Action Items:

A. State Budget and Legislative Update: State Senator Dave Cox appeared to discuss the status of the State Budget and other important legislative issues. Sen. Cox began by noting that he has never been to a meeting such as this without giving out his home number: it is (916) 965-5140. Sen. Cox believes the state is in serious financial difficulty. He believes this is due primarily to the tax structure. The State of California is currently running a budget deficit of approximately \$1.65 billion, and much larger deficits are likely. He believes promising solutions have recently been offered by the Commission on the 21st Century Economy. In summary, this Commission noted some problems (38% of state revenues are from the personal income tax, 28% are

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from the sales tax, both are declining, and 42% of adults don't pay any state income tax); and some solutions (expand the percentage of adults paying some income tax, institute a flatter tax structure with lower maximums, and reduce regulatory burdens on business) relative to the structural deficits. Senator Cox encouraged interested persons to peruse the Commission's report, which is available on the web.

Addressing the Water Bill, Senator Cox does not believe the legislature has done a good job with transparency. He believes the proposed water bond is full of pork. Senator Cox hastened to point out that water issues generally do not generate partisan disputes, but disputes between northern California legislators, and those from southern California. Southern California has the population, and thus the votes in the legislature; therefore, southern California has the power to exercise sovereignty over northern California's resources.

Responding to a question about the peripheral canal, Senator Cox opined that there could be a new one constructed, however this would require the environmental lobby to allow for additional reservoirs. Moreover, the cost (probably about \$30 billion to build a new canal) would be daunting. Senator Cox emphasized again that storage is a big issue with respect to intra-state water transfer, and noted that this is especially true regarding the water that goes out to sea, but that the environmental lobby has not been cooperative on this score. Senator Cox also noted the great divergence around the state in terms of how much people are expected to conserve. Remarking on the prospect of desalinization as a means of satisfying southern California's insatiable thirst, he stated that this technology might provide a good long-term solution, but with current methods would be far too expensive.

Regarding fiscal responsibility, Senator Cox emphasized his distaste for earmarks, and noted that he has certain criteria he utilizes in evaluating the efficiency of expenditures. Responding to Supervisor Uhler's question whether, in view of the State's difficulty in balancing its budget when the economy was booming, any hope exists for getting the fiscal house in order currently, Senator Cox responded "no".

Senator Cox remarked on the business climate in California. He believes it is poor, and that this bodes ill for economic recovery in our state, and thus for the fiscal health of government. He cited the example of a call center which used to operate in Sacramento. It wished to offer employees the opportunity to work three twelve hour days, but get paid for forty hours per week. The state would not allow this, because it would have been in violation of overtime regulations. The call center left the state. How does that help anyone in California? Similar stories abound.

B. Update on status of J17 Deer Hunt change recommendation: Asst. Placer

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County Agricultural Deputy Director Joshua Huntsinger provided an update regarding the status of recommendations presented by the State Fish and Game Department's proposed change to the State Department of Fish and Game's J17 Youth Hunt tag limits. By way of background, in March of this year the issue of deer population impacting traffic safety was brought before the Placer County Fish and Game department. At that time, Animal Control testified that it had observed an increase in the number of deer hit by cars. As a potential remedy, a special deer hunt was proposed. Action on the matter was deferred to the June 24 hearing pending results of a survey by Animal Control regarding deer carcass collection, as well as Mr. Huntsinger's conference with the CHP. The Highway Patrol reported that although they keep statistics on reported animal strikes, they do not keep figures on deer strikes specifically, thus they could not provide reliable data on this matter. Animal Control, however, does break out its animal strike statistics based on species, and reported an increase in deer carcass collection. At the June 24 hearing, the county Fish and Game Department voted in favor of the State Fish and Game Department putting together a proposal to remedy the deer versus auto problem in Granite Bay. Thus, a proposal for changes to the J17 deer hunt program.

The J17 hunt is for 12-17 year-olds who obtain a junior hunting license. Under the program, there is a draw for a total of twenty-five "either sex" hunting tags. The proposed change is to expand the tag quota from 25 to 75, and change the tags from "either sex", to "antler-less only". No new hunt areas are proposed. The concept of modifying the existing hunt, as opposed to other possible remedies, was driven by a lack of resources at Fish and Game. The focus on additional doe tags is because there are already 33,000 buck tags in Placer County. Moreover, it is obvious that managing does is an efficient way to manage a deer population. Currently, Fish and Game will send the proposal to the Board of Supervisors in early December. The Board of Supervisors may "non-agendize" the proposal, which is the equivalent of an endorsement, in which case the proposal would go to State Fish and Game, which is the final authority on this matter, for approval for the 2010 season.

One resident remarked that an increase in junior hunt tags will mainly produce an increase in hunting outside the area (Auburn-Folsom corridor) which is the primary focus of concern. A resident of Lake Shore Estates expressed concern regarding the source of the data presented. Moreover, he is concerned about twelve year-olds hunting in Granite Bay. He termed such "deleterious to safety and tranquility". He also maintained that based on the success rates of such hunts, they are unlikely to have a meaningful positive impact on deer overpopulation. A Lake Forest Drive resident noted that there is hunting in that area, but is concerned about youngsters turned loose with rifles. She thinks "professional hunters" should be utilized. A Loomis resident opined that the proposed change to the J17 program is about promoting the SHARE

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program, not about reducing car collisions. She believes there is an effort to enlist kids because there are no tags available for adults to shoot does.

Mr. Huntsinger stated that the SHARE program is a vehicle for Fish and Game to ensure that hunts occur on safe, insured properties. Moreover, an adult must accompany the youthful hunters, and must be qualified. Further, under the SHARE program, individual landowners have jurisdiction to limit "method of take" - Fish and Game just sets forth minimum requirements, which they will not alter. Thus individual landowners may restrict hunts on their properties to bow and arrow. Regarding the "antler-less" character of the proposed hunts, Mr. Huntsinger stated that biologists believe antler-less hunts are desirable because the buck population has been reduced to the point that adequate genetic diversity is being imperiled.

Mr. Huntsinger also noted that there are regulations governing the minimum distance hunters must be from roads and dwellings. Relocation and/or birth control as remedies for overpopulation are considered undesirable because (a) relocation is highly stressful such that it almost always results in death; and (b) birth control is impractical absent a "healthy funding source". Funding issues also drive Fish and Game's dislike of hiring professional hunters. They prefer hunting by regular permits, which both generates revenue, and promotes use of carcasses. Finally, Public Works has now installed a total of eight deer crossing signs between the Sacramento County line and Auburn City limits.

- C. Census 2010: District Director Brian Jagger presented information on the Census 2010 awareness and outreach program that is currently being undertaken by Placer County and the Census Bureau. He alerts residents to a questionnaire which will appear in the mail in mid-March, 2010. The census bureau wants them returned in April. According to Mr. Jagger, if you don't return the questionnaires promptly, they will "hound you, and hound you", so the wise course of action is to not let them spend money hounding us. Answers to questions concerning the census can be found on the web at 2010census.gov.
- **11. Correspondence** Found on Table at the rear of the room.
- **12.** Next Meeting: GB MAC December 2, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.
- 13. Adjournment 9:16 p.m.

CORRECTION: The October, 2009 MAC minutes incorrectly identified a candidate for State Assembly appearing at that meeting as Suzanne Rogers. The candidate's name is Suzanne Jones. We apologize for this error.

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